

My name is Amy Dudek and I am a registered voter in Norwich, CT. I work at a Local Independent Center, and the work we do every day changes people's lives for the better. I have been working at the center for five years now. I started as an advocate and recently became the Consumer Services Advocate as well as a Community Resource Specialist for Aging & Disabilities. I am requesting that you increase funding for the Centers by \$1 million. The services provided by these Centers make the difference between living in a facility and living at home.

Here is an example of a Consumer that I assisted: John has diabetes, anxiety, depression, and he has difficulty reading and writing as well. John requested assistance from the Center with transportation to his doctor's office, obtaining a letter from his doctor's office regarding medical transportation, assistance with his snap benefits, and assistance with life-sustaining food and essential personnel care items. The Independent Living Center was able to assist John with reaching all of these independent living goals. Assistance with John's snap benefits proved to be the most challenging of all, especially since John relocated from Illinois to Connecticut. This was indeed a lengthy process which took months to accomplish. Multiple emails and conference calls took place with the consumer to the Department of Human Services in Illinois, Senior Resources, & TVCCA. It was important that John provide proof of residence in Connecticut, as well as proof that his benefits had been discontinued in Illinois. After several months of consumer participation, and advocate's assistance, John finally completed his independent living goal of obtaining his snap benefits.

This is just one example of the many consumers that I have been able to assist. For John, this assistance proved to be life changing. My Independent Living Center as well as the other Centers have numerous consumers that are in need. For this reason, I am asking you to properly fund CT's five Independent Living Centers at \$2.75 Million. I sincerely appreciate all the assistance you have provided for the centers in the past, and respectfully request that you continue to help us to assist others in need.

